

§ 1467.9 Cost-share payments.

(a) The Department may share the cost with landowners of restoring the enrolled land as provided in the WRPO. The amount and terms and conditions of the cost-share assistance shall be subject to the following restrictions on the costs of establishing or installing practices specified in the WRPO:

(1) On enrolled land subject to a permanent easement, the Department shall offer to pay not less than 75 percent nor more than 100 percent of such costs; and

(2) On enrolled land subject to a non-permanent easement or restoration cost-share agreement, the Department shall offer to pay not less than 50 percent nor more than 75 percent of such costs. Restoration cost-share payments offered by Department for the short-term, 30-year easements shall be 50 to 75 percent.

(b) Cost-share payments may be made only upon a determination by the Department that an eligible practice or an identifiable unit of the practice has been established in compliance with appropriate standards and specifications. Identified practices may be implemented by the landowner or other designee.

(c) Cost-share payments may be made for the establishment and installation of additional eligible practices, or the maintenance or replacement of an eligible practice, but only if Department determines the practice is needed to meet the objectives of the easement, and the failure of the original practices was due to reasons beyond the control of the landowner.

(d) A landowner may seek additional cost-share assistance from other public or private organizations as long as the activities funded are in compliance with this part. In no event shall the landowner receive an amount which exceeds 100 percent of the total actual cost of the restoration.

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§ 1467.10 Easement participation requirements.

(a) To enroll land in WRP, a landowner shall grant an easement to the United States. The easement shall re-

quire that the easement area be maintained in accordance with WRP goals and objectives for the duration of the term of the easement, including the restoration, protection, enhancement, maintenance, and management of wetland and other land functions and values.

(b) For the duration of its term, the easement shall require, at a minimum, that the landowner, and the landowner's heirs, successors and assigns, shall cooperate in the restoration, protection, enhancement, maintenance, and management of the land in accordance with the easement and with the terms of the WRPO. In addition, the easement shall grant to the United States, through the Department:

(1) A right of access to the easement area;

(2) The right to permit compatible uses of the easement area, including such activities as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, or periodic haying or grazing, if such use is consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland resources for which the easement was established;

(3) All rights, title and interest in the easement area subject to compatible uses reserved to the landowner; and,

(4) The right to perform restoration, protection, enhancement, maintenance, and management activities on the easement area.

(c) The landowner shall convey title to the easement which is acceptable to the Department. The landowner shall warrant that the easement granted to the United States is superior to the rights of all others, except for exceptions to the title which are deemed acceptable by the Department.

(d) The landowner shall:

(1) Comply with the terms of the easement;

(2) Comply with all terms and conditions of any associated contract;

(3) Agree to the permanent retirement of any existing cropland base and allotment history for the easement area under any program administered by the Secretary, as determined by the Farm Service Agency;